

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04841 272129Z
ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE 9669
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4841

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BIOGRAPHIC DATA: MARIO RODRIGUEZ, NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR
TO THE NETHERLANDS

REF: THE HAGUE 3391 (NOTAL)

1. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL JUNE 26 TOLD EMBOFF THAT MARIO RODRIGUEZ ALTAMIRANO, A DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMAT AND NEWLY DESIGNATED GOC AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS, WOULD BE ARRIVING AT POST THE FIRST PART OF JULY. RODRIGUEZ WILL BE COMING FROM COPENHAGEN, WHERE HE HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR SINCE 1976.

2. A VETERAN CAREER DIPLOMAT, RODRIGUEZ ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1925. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES (1955-57) AND CANADA (1958-1965). RODRIGUEZ HAS SERVED A TOTAL OF 17 YEARS IN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE -- INCLUDING THE TWO AS AMBASSADOR -- IN WASHINGTON. OTHER US ASSIGNMENTS: SECOND SECRETARY (1931-35), COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY (1940-44) AND MINISTER COUNSELOR (1946-53). BETWEEN 1935 AND 1940 HE SERVED IN THE CHILEAN EMBASSIES IN LIMA AND RIO DE JANEIRO. IN 1945 RODRIGUEZ WAS ASSIGNED AS AN ADVISOR TO THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO. FROM 1953 TO 1955 HE WAS CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POLITICAL SECTION. RODRIGUEZ RETIRED AFTER HIS TOUR AS AMBASSADOR TO CANADA BUT WAS LATER (DATE UNKNOWN) TALKED INTO HEADING THE MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, WHICH HE HELD UNTIL
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HIS DESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK.

3. PERSONAL DATA: RODRIGUEZ WAS BORN IN SANTIAGO ON JULY 8, 1908. HE STUDIED AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, RECEIVING A LAW DEGREE IN 1930. WHILE ON HIS FIRST US ASSIGNMENT, HE ALSO ATTENDED FEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL FO FOREIGN SERVICE, RECEIVING A MASTERS DEGREE OF FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1935. RODRIGUEZ IS MARRIED

TO A US CITIZEN, THE FORMER MARJORIE TALMAN -- FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. THE COUPLE HAVE TWO CHILDREN. RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

4. ATTITUDES: A 1960 EMBASSY BIOGRAPHIC REPORT DESCRIBED RODRIGUEZ AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES WHO ENDEAVORED TO MAINTAIN EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS. QUICK-WITTED AND SERIOUS, HE DISPLAYED A KEEN KNOWLEDGE OF US POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS; AND WAS POPULAR IN WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. KENNEDY

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